



"It is simply service that measures success."

George Washington Carver

Carver Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2004

Volume One - Issue One

Recognizing Your Service

Welcome to the first ever issue of the Carver Volunteer Newsletter. This new newsletter is designed to recognize the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of George Washington Carver National Monument volunteers! Each issue will highlight outstanding volunteer contributions, inform you about upcoming opportunities and needs, provide interesting trivia and information, and work to insure outstanding communication between volunteers. We would like to thank the National Park Foundation's African American Experience Fund and AT&T for making this new newsletter possible.



Searching for the Past...Creating the Future



Carver Archeological Team: 4-27-04

Immediately north of the Visitor Center is a significant and very complex archeological site associated with the birthplace cabin of George Washington Carver. The site contains the remains of two cabins and a frame house constructed by Moses Carver. It should also contain an array of farm outbuilding remains associated with the Carver era, although their locations and functions have not been identified to present. The site also contains the remnants of the 20th century Shartel farmstead. The multi-component prehistoric occupation of this same area is little understood, but appears to have been

utilized by Early Archaic (ca. 7000-5000 BC) and Late Woodland (ca. 1000 AD) peoples and possibly contains a Late Archaic occupation (ca. 3000-0 BC) as well.

A significant amount of the Carver birthplace site remains intact. However, its exact content and boundaries are not entirely clear. The birthplace cabin component of the Monument is a contributing element of the George Washington Carver NM Historic District, which was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on Oct. 15, 1966.



Carver Archeological Team finds a square head nail. 4-24-04

Searching for the Past...Creating the Future (continued)

As we all look forward to the expansion of the Monument visitor center, it is vital that we not adversely impact this significant historic site. Teaming up with the Midwest Archeological Center, Carver Volunteers and staff conducted several days of intensive archeological assessments to identify any archeological sites that may exist in the areas that will be impacted by the visitor center expansion.

Over 135 hours of volunteer time were contributed to this archeological assessment! Volunteers assisted with a geophysical survey using a magnetic gradiometer to inventory the equivalent of twenty-one 20 x 20 meter blocks. One possible area of an old fence line was found on and outside the southern limit of the project area. The geophysical survey was extended south from this area, but no other indication of this partial fence type structure was identified.

Volunteers also assisted with a subsurface inventory

using a technique called shovel testing. Essentially, small holes (30-40 cm diameter X \geq 50 cm deep) were dug, each spaced 10 meters apart over the target area. The fill from each hole was screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh hardware cloth to retrieve any artifacts that may exist. Information on the hole location, soils, contents, and the positions of the positive and negative tests were recorded on Shovel Test Forms. No archeological sites were discovered and only a very small amount of charcoal, one square headed nail and a flack were identified in all of the digs that were conducted.

Now that this intensive archeological assessment is done, we now know that the area where the new visitor center expansion will go does not contain any significant archeological resources, and we can proceed with construction as the final funding is received. A huge thank you to everyone that helped with this enormous project! We could not have done it without you...



"...A distinct contribution to education."



Volunteer Gail O'Hare teaching students to play 19th Century games similar to those Carver would have played as a child

George Washington Carver National Monument is the first National Monument created in recognition of an individual that was educator. Dr. Carver believed that for students to truly learn they must handle, touch and feel the objects they are studying. At the Monument, we embrace Dr. Carver's dedication to education by providing numerous different interactive learning opportunities.

Carver Volunteers have continued to blaze new educational trails in 2004! Through the outstanding contributions and efforts of numerous volunteers and staff we have provided over 200 school programs to over 5,600 students between February and May of this year! This is an outstanding accomplishment that would not have been possible without our tremendous volunteer support!



Volunteer Mark Bailey teaching 19th Century classes

"...A distinct contribution to education." (continued)

Pioneering New Curriculum:

In addition to providing numerous outstanding programs to students, 24 volunteers have stepped up to pilot test new educational curriculum developed by the Monument. These new programs include "Discovering Science in Your National Parks" and "George Washington Carver - Man of Character," curricula.



Teacher Volunteers guiding the development of new curriculum

Through the efforts of these Teacher Volunteers, over 1,000 students have participated in these new curriculum opportunities and we have received invaluable critique to continue to refine these materials into outstanding teacher resources. Don't forget to check out these new curricula next time you are at the Monument!

Carver Academy:

Blazing new trails on another educational front is the newly developed "Carver Educational Excellence Committee." This new Carver Association committee is working diligently to develop and implement the first ever "Carver Academy of Science and Technology" (C.A.S.T.). C.A.S.T. was created by a diverse team of volunteers including 15 middle school students representing eight schools, current and retired teachers and school administrators, parents, Carver Association members, and National Park Service staff. The core objective of C.A.S.T., as set by the development team, is to further the legacy of Dr. Carver by:

- Stimulating the creative mind and providing the means by which it can be set free to develop all kinds of new products.
- Bringing alive the wonders of the natural world.
- Advancing academic performance and problem solving skills.

- Producing highly competitive students in the areas of science and technology.
- Opening the doors to advanced academic opportunities.
- Developing a brighter future by building teamwork skills and mentoring today's youth to a life of service.
- Creating a fun and rewarding environment to conduct hands-on explorations of science as it relates to real life issues.

The first sessions of the Carver Academy will launch at the end of June! Any middle school student interested in science or math are invited to participate in this fun-fill camp experience designed and implemented by Carver Volunteers.



CAST volunteer planning team work session

Stay tuned to the next edition of the "Carver Volunteer Newsletter" to learn about more distinct volunteer contributions to the Carver educational programs! If you are interested in helping with any of these programs or starting a new educational program, please let us know...you are needed!



Volunteer Kathy Jennings teaching Carver scientific experiments

Behind the Scenes Ensuring an Enjoyable Experience

Maintaining George Washington Carver National Monument is no easy task. With the thousands of visitors from all across the United States that come to the Monument each year it takes a highly skilled and dedicated team to keep the Monument looking as good as it does. Many of these team members are volunteers that bring great talents and years of experience to the Monument.

The Master Gardeners recently updated several of the Monument's perennial beds and have them looking beautiful! The Monument's volunteer maintenance team has made many tremendous accomplishments including constructing a new deck to provide access to the Carver Material Resource Center, picking up and assembling shelving, mowing the Monument grounds, assisting with custodial services, building new cabinet doors and a new donation box, and much more!

Our hats are off to each of you that have assisted with the many behind-the-scenes activities at the Monument. A recent visit by U.S. Congressman Roy Blunt was highlighted by how good the Monument looks. Thank you for your dedication to preserving part of the great American legacy – George Washington Carver National Monument.

Right: Volunteers Gary and Bethany Thomasson build a new deck.

Below: Volunteer Bethany Thomasson mows the Carver grounds.



"It is simply service that measures success."

Right: Volunteer Jay Peacock cleaning the Carver Bust



On the Front Lines...

George Washington Carver National Monument Volunteers make all the difference between an o.k. visit and an outstanding experience to the first birthplace national monument to honor anyone other than a United States President. Our volunteer greeter team has consistently represented not only the Monument, but the entire four-state region in the very best light. The frequent positive visitor comments we receive are a direct reflection on the quality of our volunteers and staff.

Outside of the smiling faces, excellent level of knowledge about Dr. Carver and caring approach to those ever so frequent questions (like where is the restroom...), our visitor center greeters have also taken on restocking the educational sales area, mailing out videos and other educational materials to schools across the nation, dusting and cleaning the visitor center and assisting with the frequent phone calls. Once again, a huge thank you to everyone that helps meet the needs of park visitors on the front lines! Dr. Carver once said, "Nothing but the highest standard can bring the success which should come to an institution of this kind." The Carver volunteer greeters exemplify the high standards of the National Park Service and provide top quality services, which is of course what measures our success!



Left: A new Jesup Wagon Donation Box designed and built by Volunteer Mark Bailey with assistance from Volunteers Perry Graves and Maryne Bentley.

Below: Volunteer Kathy Jennings covering the front desk



What? Peanuts...

We are pleased to announce that through the volunteer efforts of Wesley Ritter, Ed Ritter and Billy Dudek we have constructed a peanut demonstration garden at George Washington Carver National Monument. Two different peanut plots have been put in just west of the Carver Discovery Center. The plots were made possible not only through the volunteer hours, but also because of our volunteer's generous donation of their heavy equipment to build the gardens, proper soil and peanuts to grow!

These new demonstration gardens will greatly enhance our ability to teach visitors and students about why Dr. Carver selected the peanut as the subject of his agricultural research. We are pleased to report the peanuts are already up and growing quite well! Stop by and see this new demonstration garden next time you visit the park!



Volunteers Wesley and Ed Ritter building peanut demonstration gardens

If you, or someone you know, want to make a difference and have a willing heart...George Washington Carver National Monument is looking for you! We have immediate need to enroll Volunteers for the following positions:

- *Educational Science Kit Assembly*
- *Grounds Maintenance*
- *Visitor Center Greeter*
- *Park Guide*
- *Mail and Office Helper*
- *Facilities Maintenance*
- *Prairie Restoration*
- *Material Resource Center Stocking & Inventory*

For more information, contact the Monument's Volunteer Coordinator Ellen Cox at 417-325-4151!

"No individual has any right to come into this world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it."

George Washington Carver

African American Experience Fund (AAEF)

The African American Experience Fund (AAEF) of the National Park Foundation seeks to connect Americans to their National Parks by raising awareness of African American history and culture in the National Parks. Our National Parks offer almost limitless educational and recreational opportunities for the millions of Americans of all ages visiting them annually. The 17 National Parks and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom supported by AAEF are just a few of the special places in the National Park System that tell the stories of African Americans throughout the history of our country.

The National Parks are an excellent supplement to the classroom experience, offering exciting and innovative ways for people of all ages to gain meaningful hands-on experience in a wide range of subject matters. Take a look and experience America in the making through AAEF!



AAEF is led by a diverse volunteer group of prestigious business and community leaders committed to its mission of extending opportunities to everyone to share the unique story of African Americans throughout our country's history. To learn more about AAEF, visit <http://www.aaexperience.org>

Calling All Volunteers...

We need your help! We are seeking articles from Carver Volunteers about interesting volunteer experiences or encounters while serving here at George Washington Carver National Monument...Serious or Funny! Please submit your stories to Ellen by September 1, 2004!

Carver Trivia... Inquiring Minds Want to Know!

1. What was the title of George Washington Carver's 1894 Bachelors of Agriculture Thesis paper he wrote while at Iowa State University?
2. What college did George Washington Carver apply to, was accepted into, but upon arrival was turned away on account of his race?
3. Who took young George in during his pursuit for an education in Neosho, Missouri?

George Washington Carver National Monument

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Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Saturday, June 19, 2004 – 8 am

Come enjoy breakfast on us! In appreciation for all that you do to make our lives easier and ensure an enjoyable visit for our visitors we would like to serve you and enjoy a time of fellowship. See you there!

Preserving the Legacy – Carver Day 2004

Saturday, July 17, 2004 – 9 am – 4 pm



George Washington Carver National Monument

Answer Key

1. "Plants as Modified by Man"
2. Highland College in Kansas
3. Andrew and Mariah Watkins

